ISD/STD PCO's in Darjeeling

7470. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several out of turn connections were given under the franchise Scheme for ISD/STD, PCO booths in Darjeeling District of West Bengal during September 1993;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the latest position; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to give effect to the sanctions, duly indicating the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) Only one ISD/STD PCO was sanctioned on out-of-turn basis under Franchise Scheme in Darjeeling district during the month of September '93, in favour of Smt. Pratima Chowdhury, C/O. Smt. Kanan Bala Paul, P.O. Pradhannagar, Siliguri Distt. Darjeeling. This has not been installed so far due to some problem. The matter is under examination.

Installation of STD PCOs in Punjab

7471. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the target fixed for the installation of STD PCOs in Punjab for the last two years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said target in the State has not been achieved;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) what are the details of STD/PCOs allotted to SC/STs, widows and physically handicapped persons who have been victims of terrorism in Punjab, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) The target fixed for the installation of STD PCOs in Punjab for 1992-93 and 1993-94 was 600 and 2050 respectively.

During 1992-93, 1642 STD PCOs were installed, exceeding the target. However, during 1993-94 only 702 STD PCOs could be installed due to:

(i) Non-availability of required equipments.

(ii) Delay in deciding the franchisees as per the revised STD PCO policy; and

(iii) Non-completion of formalities by the allottees.

(d) 259 STD PCOs to SC/STs 3 STD PCOs to Widows and 602 STD PCOs to physically handicapped persons have been allotted till date. No seperate categorisation of the victims of terrorism in Punjab has been made.

Waiting list of Telephones in the country

7472. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in the country, giving the State-wise and Union Territory-wise details thereof, particularly in Punjab, upto May, 1994;

(b) what efforts are being made by Government for providing new telephone connection from each exchange in the country; and

(c) by when the telephone connections are likely to be granted to all the persons who are on the waiting list for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The waiting list of telephone connections Statewise is given in Statement. (*See* below).

(b) New Telephone connections are provided according to the registered demand. Annual Plan Envisages to provide 14 lakh telephone connections in 1994-95.

(c) National Telecom Policy 1994 envisages provision of telephone on demand by 1-4-97. Accordingly Plans are being drawn to meet this objective.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Waiting list as on 01-05-94
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,55,327
2.	Assam	10,842
3.	Bihar	35,436
4.	Gujarat (including Dadar, Diu, Daman & Nagar Haveli, U.T.)	2,03,188
5.	Haryana	61,381
6.	Himachal Pradesh	16,344
7.	J & K	18,902
8.	Karnataka	1,67,567
9	Kerala (includes Lakshadweep U.T.)	3,17,558
10.	M.P.	54,684
11.	Maharashtra (Includes Goa state)	3,39,604
12.	North East (includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland & Tripura)	5,610
13.	Orissa	5,662
14.	Punjab (includes Chandigarh U.T.)	1,94,931
15.	Rajasthan	1,64,580
16	Tamil Nadu (includes Pondicherry U.T.)	3,10,104
17.	U.P.	1,23,536
18.	West Bengal (includes Sikkim State Andaman & Nicobar Islands)	71,956
19.	Delhi	2,52,446

Non extension of STD facilities to rural areas in Andhra Pradesh

Areas in Andhra Pradesh

7473. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Telecom has been unable to maintain its earlier schedule of extending STD facilities to rural areas;

(b) whether it is a fact that STD for places like Polavoram west Godavari District has been delayed; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No. Sir. There is no specific schedule drawn for extending STD facilities to rural areas.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.